THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Central Government is vested with the powers to deport a foreign national under section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Govemments/UT Administrations. The procedure for the detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants has also been set out and circulated to State Governments/UT administrations who are implementing the same on a continuous basis.

Jail reforms

1438. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Government to modernize and reform overcrowded jails in the country has been turned down;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether the facilities in various jails are pathetic and poorly maintained; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government proposes to take to bring jail reforms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) In order to improve the condition of prisons, prisoners and the prison staff, the Central Government launched a non plan scheme namely "Modernization of Prisons" in 2002-03 in 27 States with an outlay of Rs.1800 crore on a cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The main components of the scheme was:

(i) Construction of new prison and additional barracks.

(ii) Expansion, repair and renovation of existing prisons.

(iii) Construction of staff quarters for prison persons.

(iv) Improvement in sanitation and water supply.

The scheme now ceases to exist from 31.3.2009.

However, keeping in view the demands of various States/UTs to modernize the jails and to construct more jails to reduce overcrowding, a proposal for second phase of scheme of modernisation of prisons was formulated by Ministry of Home Affairs. The proposal was examined by the Committee of Non-Plan Expenditure (CNE) in the Ministry of Finance. As outcome of CNE meeting it was decided not to go ahead with the second phase of scheme of modernisation of prisons for the time being owing to heavy commitment of Government of India on other important sectors.

(c) and (d) As per data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the overcrowding in Indian prisons exists to the extent of 135.7%, This does put an extra burden on the available facilities in the jails.

'Prison' is a State subject under list II to the Seventh schedule of the Constitution. The responsibility of the prison administration and its management, therefore, primarily lies with the respective State Governments. However, under the scheme of modernization of prisons being implemented in all the States since 2002-03 with a total outlay of Rs 1800 crore on cost sharing basis of 75:25 between the Central and States, the Government of India has provided fund for the construction of new prisons and repairs and renovation of existing prisons which include construction and repair & renovation of hospitals in the prison. This scheme has ended on 31.3.2009.

Though the decision has been taken not to go ahead with second phase of the scheme of modernisation of prisons, it has, however, been decided that the Government of India will support the proposals of the State Government seeking more funds for modernisations of the prisons as and when it is submitted to the Planning Commission.

The Government of India has also issued a comprehensive advisory to all the States/ UTs on 17th July 2009 covering all aspects of prison administration.

Areas affected by natural calamities

1439. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas affected by natural calamities during 2008-09;

(b) the State-wise details of human casualties and loss of live stock;

(c) the State-wise details of extent of damage caused to agriculture in those areas:

(d) whether the affected States demanded relief assistance from the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details of the amount sought by the States; and

(f) the amount sanctioned and released to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (f) As per the information received from the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, based on their preliminary assessment, 3,405 human lives lost, 53,833 livestock perished, 35.56 lakh ha. cropped area and 16,46,905 houses fully partially reported to have been damaged due to cyclonic storms/ heavy rains/ floods/ landslide during the year 2008-09. The State-wise details of loss of human lives & livestock and damage to crop area as well as houses due to these calamities during the year 2008-09 is enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below).